

extended positions and the movement of either of the control levers to the second position promotes the movement of the respective stabilizer leg to a plurality of retracted positions. The control levers are biased to the neutral position when in the first, second, or third positions. Next, the method includes moving either of the control levers to the third position. Finally, automatically maintaining either of the control levers in the third position to overcome the biasing action on the control levers for moving the respective stabilizer leg from any of the plurality of extended or retracted positions to the fully retracted position.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:


1. (Amended) A method of automatically retracting a stabilizer leg for a work machine, the work machine operatively associated with a power source and having a control device for selecting forward or reverse directions of movement for the work machine, comprising the steps of:

utilizing a control lever for moving the stabilizer leg between fully extended and fully retracted positions, the control lever being normally located in and biased to a neutral position;

manually moving the control lever to either of an extend position or a retract position;

manually holding the control lever in either of the extend or retract positions to respectively extend or retract the stabilizer leg to any of a plurality of positions between the fully extended and fully retracted positions;

manually moving the control lever to an auto-retract position; and


 retaining the control lever in the auto-retract position without further manual manipulation thereof through a responsive means that overcomes the biasing action of the control lever to facilitate the automatic retraction of the stabilizer leg from any of the plurality of desired positions to the fully retracted positions.

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7. (Cancelled)

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8. The method of automatically retracting a stabilizer leg of claim 1, including the step of:

 utilizing the control lever for moving a second stabilizer leg between fully extended and fully retracted positions;

manually moving the control lever to either of a second extend or retract position;

manually holding the control lever in either of the second extend or retract positions to respectively extend or retract the second stabilizer leg to any of a plurality of desired positions between the fully extended and fully retracted positions;

manually moving the control lever to a second auto-retract position; and

retaining the control lever in the second auto-retract position without further manual manipulation thereof through a responsive means that overcomes the biasing action of the control lever to facilitate the automatic retraction of